

Students with Food Allergies

Board Policy: SA-20
Adopted: **October 14, 2014**

I. General Policy Statement

The Haywood County Board of Education recognizes the increasing frequency and intensity of allergic reactions to foods by certain students and the impact these reactions may have on all children in the educational environment. Therefore, Haywood County Schools (HCS) will:

- Make every reasonable effort to promote and protect the health of children in school by providing food choices that are safe as well as nutritious.
- Provide environments that reduce the risk of ingestion or contact with foods that trigger allergic reactions for students with known life-threatening food allergies; and
- Develop prevention and management educational materials and make them widely available to HCS staff, students and parents.

II. Procedures

It is imperative for schools to address the increasing frequency and intensity of allergic reactions to foods by certain students and the impact these reactions may have on all students in the educational environment. Therefore, in an effort to identify students with life-threatening allergies, initiate safety precautions to prevent allergic reactions and prepare school staffs to deal with allergic reactions should they occur, HCS adopts the following guidelines:

- A. Parents of a student with a life-threatening allergy to a food must provide the school principal with documentation from a licensed health care provider of the specific allergic condition of the child.
- B. After receiving the required documentation, the school must work with the parents of the student to develop a health care plan to minimize the specific risk to the student. Schools shall also work with the parents to develop an emergency plan for use in the event of an allergic reaction by the child. Staff who should work in partnership with the parent to develop this plan includes, but are not limited to, the principal, school nurse, the child's teacher, and the cafeteria manager, when applicable.
- C. The health care plan should address ways to limit the child's exposure to food(s) containing the specific allergen.
- D. The development and implementation of such healthcare plans shall be carried out in a supportive manner that protects student confidentiality.
- E. Schools at which there is a student who has provided documentation of a life-threatening food allergy will provide a table in the cafeteria that is to be kept free of the types of allergen(s) that impact the identified student(s), (e.g. a "nut-free" table). While this table shall be available to the identified children, they shall not be required to eat only at this table.

- F. All school staff in contact with a child with life-threatening allergies to foods will be made aware of the child's emergency plan and trained to recognize the symptoms of and respond to an allergic reaction.
- G. Any administration of medications(s) to students with food allergies will be in accordance with the provisions of Policy SA-12, Administration of Medication to Students.
- H. Should a child with life-threatening allergies to foods be suspected of having an allergic reaction, all staff that have been trained to perform first aid or a life-saving technique shall provide treatment according to the health care plan. Staff must also call 911 and then contact the child's parent.
- I. The district will develop educational information that is made available to all HCS staff regarding the prevention and management of severe allergic reactions to food.
- J. Information regarding the prevention and management of severe allergic reactions to food shall be made available to all HCS students and their parents through the Student Handbook and by other means, such as principal newsletters and PTSA communications.
- K. School food services will work with each school to assure:
 - 1. Peanut butter sandwiches will be separated from other food items during preparation, wrapped, clearly labeled, and located away from other foods on the food service line.
 - 2. Any items containing nuts will be clearly labeled.
 - 3. School cafeterias will handle each case individually based on the severity of the allergy.